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Fifty-seventh year

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference

Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations

Right of peoples to self-determination

Human rights questions

Identical letters dated 11 June 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Mali to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

1. The Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) has called for a peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, which has so often led to war between Pakistan and India, and, even now, threatens regional and international peace and security. The root cause of the current and recurring tensions in the unresolved dispute over Jammu and Kashmir.

2. The OIC has established a Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir, with representative composition, to advance its peaceful resolution. In conformity with this mandate, the Contact Group, which met in New York today, 11 June 2002, is transmitting this communication to the President of the Security Council, and simultaneously to you, to seek urgent action to prevent another war in South Asia and promote efforts to address the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

3. The Ninth Extraordinary session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, in their communiqué of 10 October 2001, rejected any linkage between terrorism and the right of Islamic and Arab peoples to self-determination and self-defence against foreign occupation. In its declarations and communiqués adopted over many years, the OIC has consistently supported the exercise of the right of self-determination by the people of Jammu and Kashmir, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations.

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4. In the context of the current crisis, the OIC Contact Group urges the Security Council and the Secretary-General, in discharge of their central responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations, to take expeditious steps to prevent the use of force or threat of force, proscribed by Article 2 (4) of the Charter, and to call for immediate military de-escalation and mutual withdrawal of forces by India and Pakistan to normal peacetime locations. Unless this is achieved, the danger of war will remain ever present.

5. Further steps must be implemented by the parties to defuse the tensions and halt the violations of human rights while simultaneous actions are taken to discourage recourse to violence in the Kashmiri struggle for self-determination.

6. These steps will serve to create an environment that is conducive to the initiation of a political process, including a dialogue between Pakistan and India, to promote a just and peaceful solution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

7. The OIC has consistently called for recourse to dialogue by Pakistan and India to address and resolve the underlying causes of tension between them, especially Kashmir. This is also the position taken by the United Nations Security Council, notably in resolution 1172 (1998).

8. The OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir expresses its confidence that the Security Council and its members, as well as the Secretary-General of the United Nations, will act urgently and effectively, consistent with their mandates and Charter responsibilities, to prevent another war between Pakistan and India and to promote a just and peaceful solution to the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

9. We request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 10, 21 (d), 55, 118 and 119, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Cheickna **Keita**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mali
Chairman of the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir